

**Senator Wayne L. Niederhauser** proposes the following substitute bill:

**VISION SCREENING AMENDMENTS**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Wayne L. Niederhauser**

House Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to vision screening in schools.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ provides conditions when a licensed health care professional may participate in a school district's free vision screening program; and
- ▶ makes technical changes.

**Monies Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**53A-11-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2001, Chapter 73

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53A-11-203** is amended to read:

25           **53A-11-203. Vision screening.**

26           (1) A child under seven years of age entering school for the first time in this state must  
27 present the following to the school:

28           (a) a certificate signed by a licensed physician, optometrist, or other licensed health  
29 professional approved by the division, stating that the child has received vision screening to  
30 determine the presence of amblyopia or other visual defects. As used in this section, "division"  
31 means the Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired, State Office of Education;  
32 or

33           (b) a written statement signed by at least one parent or legal guardian of the child that  
34 the screening violates the personal beliefs of the parent or legal guardian.

35           (2) The division shall provide vision screening report forms to persons approved by the  
36 division to conduct the screening.

37           (3) ~~[Each]~~ A school district may conduct free vision screening clinics for children aged  
38 3-1/2 to seven.

39           (4) (a) The division shall maintain a central register of children, aged 3-1/2 to seven,  
40 who fail vision screening and who are referred for follow-up treatment.

41           (b) The register described in Subsection (4)(a) shall include the name of the child, age  
42 or birthdate, address, cause for referral, and follow-up results. ~~[Each]~~

43           (c) A school district shall report referral follow-up results to the division.

44           (5) The division shall coordinate and supervise the training of ~~[persons who serve as~~  
45 ~~vision screeners]~~ a person who serves as a vision screener.

46           (6) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (6)(b), a ~~[A]~~ licensed health professional  
47 providing vision care to private patients may not participate as a screener in a free vision  
48 screening ~~[programs]~~ program provided by a school ~~[districts]~~ district.

49           (b) A school district may:

50           (i) allow a licensed health professional that provides vision care to private patients to  
51 participate as a screener in a free vision screening program for a child eight years of age or  
52 older; and

53           (ii) establish guidelines to administer a free vision screening program provided  
54 pursuant to Subsection (6)(b)(i).

55           (7) The Department of Health shall, by rule, set standards and procedures for vision

56 screening required by this chapter, and shall provide the division with copies of rules,  
57 standards, instructions, and test charts necessary for conducting vision screening.  
58 (8) The division shall supervise screening, referral, and follow-up required by this  
59 chapter.